

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 1990

FOR IOP/M

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TAGS: -

SUBJ: -

IN A PREPARED STATEMENT READ TO NEWSMEN TODAY MR. JOSHUA NKOMO, PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER AGAIN RESTATED HIS STAND THAT THE CAUSE OF THE WAR IN RHODESIA MUST BE REMOVED BEFORE A SOLUTION TO THAT COUNTRY'S PROBLEM CAN BE FOUND.

"THE FORMULATION OF A CONSTITUTION, WHICH IS LARGELY AN ACADEMIC EXERCISE, CAN ONLY FOLLOW AFTER THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE BEEN SATISFIED THAT THE POWER TO EFFECT THAT CONSTITUTION IS SECURELY AND IRREVOCABLY IN THEIR CONTROL," SAID MR. NKOMO.

THE BURLY NATIONALIST LEADER SAID A SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN CRISIS CAN ONLY COME THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN "THE FORCES LOCKED IN COMBAT," AND THESE WERE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, BEING THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION, ON THE OTHER.

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"IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS NOT COMING FACE TO FACE WITH THE ACTUAL CONCRETE PROBLEM BECAUSE IT IS LENDING OPPORTUNITY TO THE PUPPET REGIME" CHARGED MR. NKOMO.

MR. NKOMO TOLD THE PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT ZIMBABWE HOUSE THAT HE HAS ASKED LEADER OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CONSULTATIVE TEAM,

MR. JOHN GRAHAM, TO REPORT BACK TO BRITAIN FOREIGN SECRETARY, DAVID OWEN, THAT A FORMAL MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BE HELD TO CLEAR CERTAIN ISSUES.

MR. NKOMO SAID THIS WHEN PRESSED FOR DETAILS ON WHETHER DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD ONLY THE FRONT AND NO OTHER FORCE WILL CONTROL LAW AND ORDER.

" THIS IS OUR STAND" HE REPLIED; "BUT I HAVE ASKED MR. JOHN GRAHAM TO REPORT BACK TO DR. OWEN THAT A FORMAL MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND HIS SUBORDINATES AND OURSELVES TAKE PLACE IN ORDER TO CLEAR THESE THINGS."

HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY WHAT THE SHAPE OF THINGS WILL BE AFTER THIS MEETING. "BUT WE HAVE OUR POSITION AND WE INTEND TO STAND BY THAT POSITION. BUT OF COURSE, WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT."

ASKED ABOUT THE ACCEPTABILITY OF A COMMONWEALTH PEACE KEEPING FORCE IN ZIMBABWE, MR. NKOMO SAID "WE SHALL HEAR FROM THE BRITISH WHEN WE MEET THEM WHAT THEY HAVE IN THEIR MINDS. WE DON'T KNOW NOW."

HE ADDED HOWEVER, THAT POSITION OF THE FRONT IS THAT IT HAS A FORCE DOING THE FIGHTING, AND A FORCE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER.

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HE CHARGED THAT "HUNDREDS" OF ACTIVISTS BELONGING TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND LOCKED UP BY THE SMITH REGIME IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR WHAT HE CALLED "THE SELL-OUT CAMPAIGNS OF THE PUPPET TRIO -- SITHOLE, MUZOREWA AND CHIRAU."

"I MUST EMPHASIZE THAT NO AMOUNT OF ARRESTS WILL DESTROY OUR DETERMINATION OF DEFEAT THE RACIST REGIME OF RHODESIA THROUGH ARMED STRUGGLE," HE TOLD THE CONFERENCE.

COMMENTING ON THE REPORTED STATEMENTS WITH REGARD TO THE PROGRESS ON NON-PROGRESS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CONSULTATIVE TEAM LED BY BRITISH DIPLOMAT, JOHN GRAHAM RECENTLY IN SALISBURY, HE SAID THE TRANSITIONAL STRUCTURE MUST REFLECT THE NECESSITY OF THE FULL TRANSFER OF POWER FROM THE MINORITY TO THE MAJORITY. WE ARE NOT WAGING OUR LIBERATION WAR IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE BRITISH POWER IN ZIMBABWE," HE POINTED OUT.

ON NEWS REPORTS THAT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN CONSULTATIVE TEAM HAD REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SMITH GOVERNMENT, MR. NKOMO SAID THAT THE SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT BY MR. SMITH THAT THE SUPPOSED AGREEMENT "IS RUBBISH AND UNACCEPTABLE" AND SERVES TO STRENGTHEN THE FRONT'S POSITION THAT THE CAUSES OF THE WAR, OF WHICH THE CONTINUED

EXISTENCE OF THE RHODESIAN REGIME IS ONE, MUST BE
ELIMINATED FIRST TO GUARANTEE THE ATMOSPHERE OF WORKING OUT THAT
CONSTITUTION AND SECONDLY, ITS IMPLEMENTATION."

MR. NKOMO, WHO TURNED UP AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE GARBED IN MILITARY
UNIFORM OF "COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF " OF THE ARMED FORCES OF ZAPU
WITHIN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT", ISSUED TO NEWSMEN A LIST OF SOME 99
PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY ARRESTED BY THE SMITH GOVERNMENT.

ACCORDING TO MR. NKOMO, # 5#3 3 034 9, , WHO HE SAID WERE IN CHWDGE
OF RUNNING THE ZAPU'S EIGHT DISTRICTS, INCLUDED MEMBERS OF
HIS EXECUTIVE. HE CLAIMZD THE LIST OF THOSE ARRESTED WAS DRAWN UP BY

REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE AND HANDED TO RHODESIAN CABINET SECRETARY
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JACK GAYLARD WHEN THE TWO MEN MET IN LONDON DURING THE COMMONWEALTH
CONFERENCE.

MR. NKOMO SAID REVEREND SITHOLE TOLD THE RHODESIAN OFFICIAL THAT
HE COULD ONLY RETURN TO RHODESIA IF THE PERSONS NAMED IN THE LIST
WERE "REMOVED."

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 LUSAKA 1990

MR. NKOMO ALSO DISPLAYED TO NEWSMEN RHODESIAN ARMY DOCUMENTS
HE ALLEGED WERE USED FOR MERCENARY RECRUITMENT. HE SAID
ATROCITIES HAVE INCREASED SHARPLY AS A RESULT OF THE INCREASE IN

THE NUMBER OF MERCENARIES OPERATING ON THE SIDE OF THE REBEL ARMY.

HE SAID THE DOCUMENTS, -- A RHODESIAN ARMY BROCHURE, APPLICATION FORMS MEDICAL EXAMINATION FORM AND A LETTER WRITTEN BY A MAJOR N. LAMPRECHT, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY, ARE SENT TO AREA OFFICES SET UP IN A "NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN WESTERN EUROPE" INCLUDING BRITAIN AS WELL AS NORTH AMERICA.

HE READ OUT ONE LETTER ALLEGEDLY WRITTEN TO ONE SUCH "MERCENARY" IN BELGIUM. MR. NKOMO SAID THE MERCENARIES RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN IN THE UNITED STATES AIMS AT VIETNAM EX-SERVICEMEN.

"ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMANT, THERE WERE ABOUT 15 TO 20 PEOPLE A DAY IN BELGIUM REGISTERING AS MERCENARIES FOR IAN SMITH'S ARMY. AND OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THERE ARE OFFICES ALSO IN WEST GERMANY, FRANCE, IN ENGLAND, AND IN THE UNITED STATES," HE CLAIMED.

MR. NKOMO, ADDED THAT THE RECRUITMENT EXERCISE IN THE U.S. WAS AIMED AT PERSONS WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM,: "AS FAR AS WE KNOW, QUITE A NUMBER OF UNITED STATES PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN IN VIETNAM ARE IN ZIMBABWE," HE SAID.
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HE DENIED CHARGES THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS A TRIBAL ORGANIZATION SAYING THE MOVEMENT COVERED THE WHOLE COUNTRY. HE SAID THERE WERE "CERTAIN PEOPLE IN THE REGIME AND SOME MEDIA IN BRITAIN" WHO ARE TRYING TO BREAK UP THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BY SUGGESTION THAT THERE ARE TRIBAL CLASSES WITHIN THE FRONT.

HE SAID, A WHITE SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNALIST IN SALISBURY, REPORTING FOR THE BBC UNDER THE AFRICAN NAME OF "HUMBA", CLAIMED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CAMPAIGN BY THE ZAPU SECTION OF THE FRONT IN BULAWAYO TO KILL SHONA BUSINESSMEN AND THAT FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF ZANLA, THE FIGHTING WING OF ZANU OF MR. ROBERT MUGABE, HAD GONE TO BULAWAYO TO "PROTECT" THE BUSINESSMEN.

HE DESCRIBED THIS AS A CAMPAIGN TO BREAK UP THE FRONT. "THE POSITION IS THIS. IF THERE ARE ANY OF THESE KILLINGS, THEN THEY ARE ORGANIZED KILLINGS BY THE SELOUS SCOUTS OF THE SMITH REGIME ARMY."

HE DECLARED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS HERE TO STAY, "DESPITE THE WISHFUL THINKERS."

ASKED IF HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SHARE POWER DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD WITH THE BRITISH, MR. NKOMO REPLIED THAT THESE WERE SOME "OF THE PROBLEMS WE'VE GOT TO DISCUSS."

"AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE WERE THE FIRST PEOPLE IN GENEVA TO
INTRODUCE THE CONCEPT OF A BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER. AND
THE BRITISH WERE RESISTING, AND WE HAD T
UT THROW A ROPE TO
PULL THEM IN.

" NOW THEY WANT TO JUMP THE WHOLE HOG AND OCCUPY THE WHOLE SPACE.
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THAT IS NOT SHARING."

ANSWERING ANOTHER QUESTIONGF MR. NKOMO SAID A FREE ZIMBABWE WILL
NOT HAVE "A LAW OF THE JUNGLE" AND THAT DECISIONS OF THE
COURTS WILL BE RESPECTED.

HE SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO SAY WHETHER HE WOULD PREFER CHARGES
AGAINST THOSE "COMMITTING CRIMES" AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA,
SINCE HE WAS NOT IN POWER.

"IF THERE IS GOING TO BE ANY ACTION TAKEN AGAINST ANY PERSON,
IT WILL BE WITHIN THE LAW OF THE LAND AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME."
THE POLICE WILL DO THEIR WORK, AND THE COURTS WILL DO THEIR WORK,
AND THE DECISION OF THE COURTS WILL BE RESPECTED." ITEM USIS
LUSAKA.

ED. NOTE: SEE LUSAKA 1989 FOR FULL TEXT NKOMO STATEMENT.
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